Topic: Political rights and responsibilities

Lesson 1: Making a difference to my local community	KS or Year Group: KS 3
Resources: 1. Resource 1 – My local community survey x 4 (if they need more, please make extra copies) 2. Poster paper and marker pens	**Outcomes:** • Students will be able to express and explain their opinions to others, identifying positive and negative features in their local community. • Students will be able to provide reasons to justify their point of view, in order to persuade others to support them.

National Curriculum

Key concept – democracy and justice
Key processes – 2.1 a and b, 2.2 a,b,c and d. 2.3 a,b,c and d
Range and content – 3e, g and h

Note – Opportunities need to be provided for students to communicate with members of the local council. Students could email or write to councillors. The teacher would need to liaise with the council to organise this. If this is not possible then the teacher would need to take on the role of a local councillor. Having read the manifestos for change, they would then make an appropriate response to the students.

Lesson 1

This series of lessons begins by asking students to identify positive and negative aspects of their local community and start to identify ways these issues might be improved.

Making a difference to my local community

Starter

- Group students into the areas where they live. Divide them into groups of four or five.

- Give them a sheet of poster paper. Ask them to divide the poster paper into two columns, labelling one column 'positive' and the other 'negative'. Groups should write in all the positive things they can think of about their local community in the first column – what they like, what they would choose to show to a visitor, etc.

- Put the following 3 headings on the board to act as a prompt: **Facilities and services** (e.g. public transport; library; cinema; hospital; shops; churches; community centre; youth centre), **Safety** (e.g. roads; cycle lanes; lighting) and **Appearance** (e.g. cleanliness; trees; flowerbeds).

- Let the whole class give feedback on their answers, put the ideas on the board and add more to their list.

- Explain that we are now going to think about the negative aspects, in terms of what issues and problems they can identify. Groups write down what they don't like, what needs changing/improving, what do they need that they don't have now, what spoils where they live or what makes them feel unsafe, etc.

- Let the whole class feed back. Students can add to their posters if they wish.

Main activity

Activity 1:
- Explain that they are going to think in more detail about how their local community could be improved.
- Describe the work of the local council and emphasise how this will be a really good opportunity to have their views heard and make a difference.
- Explain what opportunities are going to be provided for them to communicate with members of the local council, i.e. emailing or posting their manifesto to members of the local council.

Activity 2:
- Ask groups to rank the items in the negative column on their poster according to levels of importance – from the most important issue that needs addressing first to the least important issue. The top four or five (one issue per group member) are the ones they are going to focus on.
- Give them time to discuss what they have identified and debate whether this really is an problem, who might be affected and how could it be improved. They should agree the rank order by voting, having given their opinions about what they think.
- Each group will share their top four or five with the rest of the class.
- Explain that within their groups they are going to choose one issue each to focus on, although they will help one another by giving ideas and feedback. Ask each group to decide who is focusing on which issue. Move around groups to check on this.

Making a difference to my local community

- Explain that in order to put a good case to the council they must convince them that they have sought out the views of other members of the community. Therefore they need to gain more views by interviewing and asking people to fill out a questionnaire. This will provide excellent evidence of consultation and will help persuade the councillors that their suggestions should be taken forward. Explain that they need to consider different groups (e.g. younger children, the elderly, adults) and get a range of views. Explain that they can only ask friends and family who live in the area they are focusing on. Emphasise they **may not** ask anyone else because of safety issues, that they could put themselves at risk. They can also survey other members of the school community - students, staff etc.
- Distribute **Resource 1 – My local community survey**. Explain they can add any questions of their own to the sheet if they want to. Explain the importance of doing this research so that they can build up a detailed picture. They should also see if they can find any other evidence to support their views, e.g. by looking in the local newspapers.
- Homework task: to carry out research and organise completion of surveys. Remind them that all of the information they gather must be brought to the next lesson.

Plenary

Students to discuss:

- Did you find it easy to express and explain your opinions to others, identifying positive and negative features in the local community?
- Did you find it easy to justify your point of view, giving reasons to support them to persuade others?
- Target setting question – is there anything you could do to improve on what you have done today?

Making a difference to my local community

Resource 1 - My local community survey

Male / Female (circle as appropriate)

Area where I live ……………………………………………………

Age range (circle as appropriate)

7 – 11yrs	18 – 25yrs	41+ yrs
12 – 17yrs	25 – 40yrs	

Are any of the following issues in your area? Please underline them.

Lack of facilities for young children

Lack of facilities for teenagers

Lack of facilities for adults

Crime

Traffic

Pollution

Youths loitering on the streets

Litter and graffiti

Vandalism

Are there any others issues you think need to be addressed?

What do you think should be done about the issues you have identified? Can you suggest any improvements or changes?